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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
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MISSION STATEMENT

“As advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the Mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system.”

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING

Minutes

Thursday, February 23, 2012

Members Present

Adler, Fred – District Three
Buono, M.D., Colleen – Hospital Association of
San Diego /Imperial Counties (Alt)
Bull, R.N., Pat – American Red Cross
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hospital Association of
San Diego/Imperial Counties
Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Dist. Association
Jacoby, M.D., Jake – District Four
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedic Assoc.
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – District Two
Ochs, Ginger – Co. Paramedics Agency Comm. (Alt)
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses Association
Rosenberger, R.N., Wendy – BHNC

Vacant Positions

Binational EMCC
District Five
League of California Cities
Military Agencies
San Diego County Medical Society
San Diego Emergency Physicians' Society

Recorder

Wolchko, Janet I.

Members Absent

Green, R.N., Katy –District One
Johnson, Wayne – San Diego County
Ambulance Association
Pfohl, Chief Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Salazar, Sgt. Stanley – Law Enforcement
Agency

In attendance

DeBry, Westen – Loma Linda University
Dotson, R.N., Melody – UCSD
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Mercy Air Services
Nevin, Jon – El Cajon Fire
Nicolaison, John - NCTI
Rice, Mike – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association
Ross, Alyssa – City of San Diego
Tuigman, Mike – AMR

County Staff

Haynes M.D., Bruce – EMS Medical Director
Buttron, Patrick
Metz, R.N., Marcy – EMS Chief
Pate, R.N., Rebecca

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Marugg, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public speakers or petitions.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Linda Rosenberg seconded by Ginger Ochs to approve the November 9, 2011 minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Linda Rosenberg, R.N., Sharp Memorial Hospital was nominated for EMCC Chairperson. **A motion was made by Jim Marugg, seconded by Mary Meadows-Pitt to appoint Linda Rosenberg as EMCC Chairperson. Motion carried.**

Jim Marugg, San Diego County Paramedics' Association, was nominated for EMCC Vice Chairperson. **A motion was made by Mary Meadows-Pitt, seconded by Ginger Ochs to appoint Jim Marugg for EMCC Vice Chairperson. Motion carried.**

According to the EMCC bylaws "The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson may serve a maximum of two successive terms.

V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee

Policies S-307 and S-601 were approved by the subcommittee and forwarded for final approval to the full EMCC.

S-307, Continuing Education for Prehospital Personnel

Changes were made to the dates and to bring the policy in-line with the State Policy and the CE provider handbook.

S-601, Documentation and Transferral of Prehospital Patient Care Information

Changes were made to bring the policy in-line with the State requirements and with documentation on assessment and reassessment policy.

A motion was made by Ginger Ochs, seconded by Gary Fisher to approve Policies S-307 and S-601. Motion carried.

B. Education and Research Subcommittee

No report.

C. Disaster Operations Subcommittee

1. Golden Guardian 2012

Golden Guardian 2012 is scheduled for May 15-17, 2012. The scenario of the exercise is a catastrophic earthquake along the San Andreas Fault.

- Day 1 – EOC will be at Level III activation.
- Day 2 – full functional exercise with the hospital, agencies and jurisdictions that will be in play.
- Day 3 – tabletop COOP exercise with County OES.

2. Annex D

Annex D along with other annexes will be reviewed and rewritten under a new common format. Tactical operational pieces will be placed in an appendix or in a field operation guide. The timeline to review the annexes and have them approved by the County Board of Supervisors is June 2013.

VI. AMBULANCE ORDINANCE

The Ambulance Ordinance draft was presented to EMCC for review and discussion. Updates were made to definitions reflected in the Health and Safety Code and practices that will make permitting ambulance agencies more efficient. The ordinance has been reviewed by the Disaster/Operation Subcommittee and the ambulance associations. Revisions have been reviewed for the past year.

It was noted that at the EMCC Disaster/Operations Subcommittee meeting there was some concern with requirements for nationally recognized Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) protocols for dispatch centers. By using EMD there would be a definitive way that the call would be handled; however, there is added expense for the dispatch center.

There was a request from some of the larger jurisdictions that the ambulance ordinance pertains to the entire County not just the unincorporated area. The County has no jurisdiction in the incorporated areas.

The process of permitting ambulances has gone through some changes; for example, a waiting period once an agency has been denied an ambulance permit before the agency can reapply.

The Ambulance Ordinance draft will be presented by the agencies to their constituent groups for discussion.

Action Item: Continue Ambulance Ordinance as an EMCC agenda item.

VII. SIDEWALK CPR DAY

San Diego has the opportunity to participate in a Southern California “*Sidewalk CPR Day*” scheduled for June 7, 2012. The date will correspond with National CPR week starting June 4, 2012. Local EMS agencies in collaboration with the American Heart Association (AHA) are to ask community agencies, i.e. fire agencies and hospitals, to participate in demonstrating chest compression CPR to the public. Letters will be sent out to the system participants to see if there is interest in registration for the event. After the CPR training and demonstrations are completed, agencies will report the number of individuals in their community that participated in the CPR training. EMS will send out information regarding the event.

VIII. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

A. S-422 Restraint Policy

Base Station Physicians’ Committee (BSPC) approved the S-422 restraint policy during their February 21, 2012 meeting. Updates will give flexibility to the field on how to restrain someone and move them to a safe position. Wording was added regarding when restraint is appropriate and guidance for using the spit sock.

B. Hospice

There are reported lift assists dispatched for hospice patients and hospice patients transported to hospitals when it is not part of the patient’s hospice plan. Issues with lift assists and transporting hospice patients have been addressed in the Pearls for PAC and Medical Director Update. EMS will continue discussing the issue with hospice and BSPC.

C. ROC

The Resuscitation Outcome Consortium (ROC) BLAST study is underway. The BLAST study looks at lactate and shock related to trauma. Prehospital testing and subsequent testing on arrival at the hospital may show improved criteria for triage and trauma designation. The study involves two trauma centers, UCSD and Mercy.

The ALPS study will begin in March. The ALPS study is a blinded study on medications and cardiac arrest by randomly giving patients Amiodarone, Lidocaine or a placebo.

D. Influenza

Until the last couple of weeks there have only been a few cases of the flu reported. Most of the cases reported are Influenza A.

E. Norovirus

There have been outbreaks of the Norovirus at residential care and skill nursing facilities. Guidance for protective cautions has recently been sent out.

F. Drug Shortages

Drug shortages include Midazolam and Versed medications. The shortage is being closely monitored with suppliers - local suppliers have been very cooperative.

There has also been a shortage in Morphine 10mg carpjects. Other concentrations of Morphine are available. It is suggested to use a lower concentration when using other medication.

Fred Adler added that the FDA has asked manufacturers of some generic medications to halt production due to quality control and manufacturer labels. Dr. Haynes added that this can become serious if, for example, chemotherapeutic agents become in short supply.

G. EMS Regulations

The County's first Advanced EMT (AEMT) class is underway at EMSTA. A draft of paramedic regulations were released by EMSA for input, and EMT and AEMT regulations are under revision to bring them into conformance with the National Instructional Guidelines and scope of practice. Development of regulations for EMS for Children, STEMI centers and stroke receiving centers have been discussed.

H. Decontamination Procedures

The Department of Environment Health with Nick Vent is conducting hospital training in decontamination procedures and hands on use of personal protective equipment.

I. Training

Pediatric surge training and burn surge training is currently being offered. The burn surge program is to prepare for a terrorist attack or if there is a fire where there are multiple burn patients. The program would help unload some of the volume of patients from UCSD by sending some patients to the trauma centers or to other 911 receiving hospitals depending on how bad the patient's burn injuries are.

There was an inquiry regarding electronic POLST and DNR forms. DNR guidelines currently state that a physician order can be honored, if it is written. Parts of the treatment guidelines will need to be updated due to electronic medical records that are now in place.

IX. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, Chief EMS)

- A. Every three years San Diego County trauma centers undergo American College of Surgeons (ACS) verification visits. In February they will be visiting Rady Children's Hospital and Scripps La Jolla. There will be subsequent visits in March and May to two trauma centers during each month. EMS will also be conducting a review of the centers in conjunction with the ACS visits.

Candy Schoenheit who is the new EMS Trauma Program Specialist with EMS has been attending the site visits. Ms. Schoenheit is from Palomar Hospital, a former ED nurse and MICN.

- B. During the last Stroke Consortium meeting there was discussion to plan a "*Strike Out Stroke Day*" during the Padre's game on May 1, 2012 at 7 pm. This will be a onetime event

to educate the public on the signs and symptoms of stroke and calling 911. There will be more information to come.

- C. San Diego is one of 17 nationwide Beacon communities that received funding through the Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program to improve the quality of care delivered using Health Information Technology. A Beacon EMS Hub has been established and is capable of receiving electronic patient care reports and EKG's from prehospital agencies and securely transmitting them to hospital and healthcare providers in real time.

The County is working with the Beacon collaborative to establish a bidirectional connection between the EMS Hub and the County's QCS system. The connection will allow agencies that are currently direct users of the QCS to input information into the Beacon system. Starting in March EMS will have technical meetings every two weeks with the Beacon participants. Agencies are still required to provide their data through the QCS.

- D. There is a grant opportunity for public access defibrillators through State EMS Authority; closing date is March 19, 2012. The grant is targeted for unique settings and rural areas. Information has been sent out to the rural fire chiefs.
- E. The EMS Commission meets in March. Impact of the regulations on hospitals and local EMS agencies are being reviewed. Regulations on EMS for Children, STEMI and Stroke will also be out for review and comment.
- F. The County is conducting their budget build and analysis for the next couple of years. Included in the analysis will be the labor costs related to the implementation of EMT 2010.

X. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2012.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Submitted by

Janet I. Wolchko, Administrative Secretary III
County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services